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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,997	06/11/2004	Mark A. Johanson	22956-302 (MIT-169CON)	3996
21125	7590	08/14/2007	EXAMINER	
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BOULEVARD BOSTON, MA 02210-2604			WOO, JULIAN W	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3731
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	08/14/2007 PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/709,997	JOHANSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Julian W. Woo	Art Unit 3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

2. Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Pegg et al. (4,649,918) in view of Hallac (3,605,721). Pegg et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Pegg et al. disclose, at least in the figures, an apparatus for harvesting plugs from bone tissue, where the apparatus includes a tube (20) with an inner bore (28), a distal end having a cutting edge (26), a tooth (34, 36, or 38) coupled to the distal end of the tube and extending towards the inner bore in a direction substantially orthogonal to the cutting edge, and a handle (34). However, Pegg et al. do not disclose at least one recess adjacent the distal end or a plurality of recesses or apertures each extending from an inner surface of the tube to an outer

surface of the tube and running towards the proximal end of the tube and beginning a predetermined distance away from the distal end of the tube. Hallac teaches, at least in figures 4, 5, and 8 and in col. 4, lines 25-36; an apparatus for harvesting tissue plugs, where the apparatus includes a tube with cutting edges and a plurality of recesses or apertures (e.g., 52 or 54) each extending from an inner surface of the tube to an outer surface of the tube and running towards the proximal end of the tube and beginning a predetermined distance away from the distal end of the tube. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Hallac, to modify the tube in the apparatus of Pegg et al., so that it has a plurality of recesses or apertures adjacent the distal end of the tube. Such recesses or apertures would allow the capturing of a bone plug substantially to the depth of penetration of the tube within bone.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pegg et al. in view of Hallac as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Stavropoulos et al. (4,142,517). Pegg et al. in view of Hallac disclose the invention substantially as claimed, but do not disclose a sheath mated to the tube and including one or more markings on an outer surface thereof, the one or more markings corresponding to an amount that the sheath is inserted into bone tissue. Stavropoulos et al. teach, at least in figures 5 and 6 and in col. 1, line 7 to col. 2, line 51; a sheath (18) mated to an apparatus (40) for harvesting bone plugs, where the sheath includes markings (22) corresponding to an amount that the sheath is inserted into bone tissue. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made,

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in view of Stavropoulos et al., to include a sheath with the apparatus of Pegg et al. in view of Hallac. Such a sheath would allow harvesting of bone plugs that are undistorted by blood.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pegg et al. in view of Hallac as applied in claim 1 above, and further in view of Torrie et al. (6,358,253). Pegg et al. in view of Hallac disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Pegg et al. in view of Hallac disclose an apparatus for harvesting a bone plug, where the bone plug includes cortical bone and cancellous bone. However, Pegg et al. in view of Hallac do not disclose an apparatus including a bone plug formed from articular cartilage and underlying bone tissue. Torrie et al. teach, at least in col. 7, line 39 to col. 8, line 21, an apparatus including a harvested bone plug (87) formed from articular cartilage (86) and underlying bone tissue. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Torrie et al., to include a bone plug formed from articular cartilage and underlying bone tissue with the apparatus of Pegg et al. in view of Hallac. Such a bone plug would allow the repair and replacement of bone that is covered with damaged cartilage.

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Skinner (6,315,737) teaches an apparatus of harvesting tissue, where the apparatus includes a tube having an aperture adjacent the distal end of the tube.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian W. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4707. The examiner can normally be reached Mon.-Fri., 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Eastern Time, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Julian W. Woo
Primary Examiner

August 8, 2007